

*Paul Holt*  
*10/1/99*  
*11/2*

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Boyle et al.

Serial No.: Continuation of 09/132,985

Filed: September 24, 1999

For: Osteoprotegerin

Docket No.: A-378-CIP2C2

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This preliminary amendment accompanies the filing of a continuation application under 37 CFR 1.53(b).

**AMENDMENT**

Please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

At p. 1, line 1, insert the following:

-- This application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/132,985 filed August 12, 1998, which is a continuation of Serial No. 08/771,777, filed December 20, 1996, which is a continuation in part of 08/706,945, filed September 3, 1996, which is a continuation in part of 08/577,788, filed December 22, 1995 which is hereby incorporated by reference --.

In the claims:

Please cancel Claims ~~1-60~~ without prejudice and add the following new claims.

*Sub c8* -- 61. (new) A method for treating bone loss in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding osteoprotegerin.

*Aiz* 62. (new) The method of Claim 61 wherein the nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence from residues 1 to 401 or from residues 22 to 401 as shown in Figure 9C-9D (SEQ ID NO:124);

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